

Getting Ready for Easter - Week

Suggested Books:

An Easter Gift for Me by Crystal Bowman
The Easter Story by Patricia A. Pingry
The Easter Story (St. Joseph Picture Books) by Jude Winkler
The Crippled Lamb by Max Lucado
Benjamin's Box by Melody Carlson
J is for Jesus: An Easter Alphabet and Activity Book by Debbie Trafton O'Neal
The Parable of the Easter Lily by Liz Curtis Higgs
Donkey's Easter Tale by Adele Bibb Colvin

Vocabulary Words:

Cross, saved, sin, heaven, Jesus, Easter, tomb, risen, lamb, lily, Sunday, palm, hosanna, apostles, Mary, resurrection, Alleluia

Songs and Fingerplays:

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know.
For the Bible tells me so!
Little ones to Him belong!
They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so!

Jesus is Alive (to the tune of Mary had a little lamb).

Jesus is alive today! Alive today! Alive today!
Jesus is alive today, it is Easter morning!

Jesus Died for All the Children (tune: Jesus loves the Little Children)

Jesus died for all the children
All the children of the world.
Black and yellow, tan and white
They are precious in his sight.
Jesus died for all the children of the world.

Jesus is the King! (Tune: Farmer in the Dell)

Jesus is the King! Jesus is the King!
We praise Him with our song today,
Jesus is the king!
(Parade around the room, making a joyful noise with your instruments as you sing this)

Jelly Bean Prayer

Red is for the blood He gave,
Green is for the grass He made.
Yellow is for the sun so bright,
Orange is for the edge of night.
Black is for the sins we made,
White is for the grace He gave.
Purple is for His hour of sorrow,
Pink is for our new tomorrow.

Materials to Gather:

Dramatic Play: Have new dresses for the dolls, or wash and iron their prettiest dress. "Polish" doll shoes. Talk about how we want to look our best for Jesus. Church isn't about vanity. We wear nice clothes as a sign of respect, not pride.

Blocks: add the angel and the Mary figurine from your nativity set, so your child can build an "empty tomb" out of blocks. Give child a softball, or a wadded up brown paper bag to be the stone rolled in front of the tomb. Teach your child the short Bible phrase, "He is not here. He is risen!"

Music:

Easter Favorites by CedarMont Kids
Classics: Sunday School Songs by CedarMont Kids

Projects:

Tape Crosses: place blue painters tape on white construction paper in the shape of a cross. Let child fingerpaint on the paper, right over the tape, too. Might use blue, gray and black for fingerpaint, to show the darkness of Good Friday afternoon. When the paper is dry, pull the tape off gently.

Hosanna Leaves: draw leaf shapes on green construction paper with bold black marker. Child practices cutting, by cutting on the solid black line. Encourage child to snip around the edges of the leaf, to fringe it.

Cross Refrigerator Magnet: Cut a cross from craft foam. Child glues on a word phrase, like "He is risen!". Then decorates cross with sequins, jewels, etc. When dry, add a magnet to the back.

Empty Tomb: Cut a paper plate in half. Cut a half circle out of the bottom of one plate, for a doorway. Paint both halves gray. Let dry. Staple together to make a tomb hewn from rock. On the inside, print "He is Risen!"

Empty Tomb Cookies: need pecans, vinegar, eggwhites, sugar, salt.

Jesus Washes Our Sins Away: Cut a heart shape from red construction paper or poster board and laminate with clear contact paper. Talk to your child about sin. Give him a black washable or dry-erase marker (Not Permanent!) Let him color the heart black. Tell your child how sin makes us feel dark inside. Then let him wipe the black marks away with either a dry-eraser or damp paper towel. Explain to him how Jesus cleanses our hearts, washing away our sins to make us clean and pure again.

Jesus died for you and me collage: Cut a large cross shape from brown paper or cardboard. Child cuts out people figures from magazines and pastes them to the cross. Cut out faces, full figures, adults, children, etc. Then paste a red heart on the cross with the words: Jesus Died for You and Me.

Jelly Bean cross: cut out a cross shape from brown construction paper and glue it to a sky blue sheet of paper. Have your child glue one Jelly Bean of each color onto the cross. Then point to the color as you and your child say the poem together. Print the poem at the bottom of the picture. You and your child can make a little gift for a neighbor or grandparent by putting one of each color of jelly beans into a small snack bag with a copy of the poem. Decorate the bag with stickers or a ribbon.

Easter Greetings cards: fold paper in half, or buy blank card stock at a craft store. Let child decorate the front of the card with Easter stickers, markers,

crayons, etc. When dry, print a note to grandparents and family friends inside, or include a recent picture of your child. Then mail or give to them. Remind your child that we must love one another, as Jesus loves us.

Egg Dying: Place a dozen eggs in a saucepan, and cover them with cold water. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Once boiling, turn temperature down to let them boil very gently without cracking. Set timer for 12 minutes. When timer rings, pour off boiling water and rinse eggs repeatedly with cold tap water, until thoroughly cooled. (If there is a slight greenish color around the yellow yolk, then your eggs overcooked. If the eggshell doesn't want to peel away from your egg, then your eggs are too fresh. Buy your eggs for hard boiling a full week before you plan to use them.)

Easter Lily pencils: The Easter lily symbolizes purity, innocence, hope and life. That's why it is the traditional Easter flower. There is a legend that says the first Easter lily appeared on the ground at the foot of the cross where Jesus' blood fell. You can teach your child that white is a symbol for goodness, and black is the symbol for sin. Teach him that the trumpet shape of the flower reminds us to celebrate the Jesus rose from the dead. Trace child's hand onto sheets of white paper and cut out. Use a pencil to curl the fingertips. Wrap the hand cut out until the thumb and pinky touch. Wrap the flower around a pencil and hold it there with glue or green florist tape. Cut yellow pipe cleaner into three pieces and glue inside the flower for the stamen. Let dry. Then stick the pencil into a decorative jar filled with pretty stones. You can still sharpen the pencil and write with it, but "plant" it back in the pot between uses. Make several flowers for a pretty table centerpiece.

Easter Week: Monday

Date: _____

Concepts: C c, 3, cross, white

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity: Practice vocabulary words, Introduce C, 3, cross, white. Teach Jesus Loves Me!
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Play lotto.
8:15	Free Play: Set out props in dramatic play, blocks, music, books areas.
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time: Nature Walk. Look for signs of spring with your child. Look for green grass, birds nesting, flowers starting to bloom. Talk about new life. When the sun shines in the spring, everything comes back to life. When God's son Jesus shines in our hearts, we will come to new life, too. Look for a caterpillar, although it may be too early in the season.
11:15	Project: Tape Crosses
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack:
3:30	Outside time: Plant flowers, or just dig in the dirt
4:30	Table Time: New Life mini-book, or C is for Cross worksheet
4:45	Project: Hosanna Leaves
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journals
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

Easter Week: Tuesday

Date: _____

Concepts: Cc, 3, cross, white

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Vocabulary. Review concepts. Teach “Jesus Died for All the Children”.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Puzzles
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack:
10:15	Outside time: Build a “tomb” in the sand. Retell the Easter story of the empty tomb.
11:15	Project: Empty Tomb craft
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack:
3:30	Outside time: ride tricycle.
4:30	Table Time: Resurrection Maze. Teach about the Resurrection Eggs.
4:45	Project: Empty Tomb Cookies
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journals
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

Easter Week: Wednesday

Date: _____

Concepts: Cc, 3, cross, white

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Vocabulary. Teach “Jesus is Alive Today”.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Playdough. Form letter C with playdough. Then just play.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time. Swing and climb.
11:15	Project: Jesus washes our sins away.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: Water play, if weather permits. Wash something with the hose – the tricycle, the playhouse, the side of the garage, the car – talk with your child about sin and forgiveness.
4:30	Table Time: Number 3 worksheet. Review concepts C, 3, white, cross. Review Resurrection eggs.
4:45	Project: Jesus Died for You and Me collage
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journals
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

Easter Week: Thursday

Date: _____

Concepts: Cc, 3, white, cross

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Review vocabulary words and concepts. Teach Jelly Bean poem.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Sticky Wixx or Playdough.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack: a few jelly beans with your more nutritious choice.
10:15	Outside time: sidewalk chalk, blow bubbles
11:15	Project: Jelly Bean cross.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: Walk to a neighbor's house and give them the jelly bean gift, if you made them. Encourage your child to sing a song for her. Don't force your child – some are more shy than others.
4:30	Table Time: Number 3 worksheet. Review concepts. Review Resurrection Eggs.
4:45	Project: Easter Greetings cards
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journal
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

Easter Week: Friday

Date: _____

Concepts: Cc, 3, cross, white

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Review vocabulary and concepts. Teach “Jesus is the King!”
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Trace alphabet letters in a pie tin of colored sugar. Shake to “erase” and repeat.
8:15	Free Play.
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time. While child plays, set up the egg dying activity outside, if possible.
11:15	Project: Dye hardboiled eggs in pretty colors for Easter breakfast, if this is part of your tradition. Refrigerate eggs when done.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time:
4:30	Table Time: New Life mini-book, or Cross with Lilies coloring page. Review Resurrection Eggs.
4:45	Project: Easter Lily Pencils
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journal
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

